

MINUTES OF MEETING - 14.2.85

ATTENDANCE

B. H. Macintosh
W. M. Doyle
E. J. Long

Tony Miller

Secretary

A. Bourne - Victorian Food Co-operative Study Group

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 1984 WERE CONFIRMED

BUSINESS

1. CHANGE OF HONORARY SECRETARY

The Board resolved that on the retirement of Mr. W. W. Rawlinson, as Honorary Secretary of the Association, Mr. A. B. Miller be appointed Honorary Secretary, with effect from 1st February 1985.

2. MOVING FOOD CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Alison informed the meeting that the formation meeting of the above Co-operative had been held.

35 "members" were recorded including 3 established trading co-operatives.

Moving Food Co-operative Ltd. was to operate the proposed food warehouse. A funding submission had been prepared and was to be placed before M.E.A.T., i.e. The Co-operative Development Programme Funding Committee.

The warehouse was budgeted to break even in its third year at a \$3m. turnover. Losses of \$60,000 and \$20,000 would be experienced in the first two years.

Members were expected to take up shares of \$10-00 with larger members up to \$100-00.

The profit centre of the warehouse would be its "wholefood" where margins were good. Other goods would be stocked to meet the needs of members.

The Committee offered the new venture any assistance and wished it all success.

W. Doyle stressed the need, especially in the early stages, for very tight controls and management.

2. RESOURCES CENTRE FOR FOOD CO-OPERATIVES

Alison outlined two options:

- (a) That the Resources Centre could be located within a co-operative, e.g. Moving Food, or,
- (b) in an association (the association being for food co-operatives only).

A separate funding submission was being prepared to obtain resources for the resource centre. Only general details about the objectives of the resource centre are currently available as the idea has not been fully thought through.

Briefly, the centre is envisaged to consist of 3-6 people who would generally assist groups to form food co-operatives and might provide some central specialist service, e.g. bookkeeping etc.

Some discussion followed regarding the location of the centre in The Victorian Trading Co-operative Association. It was agreed after discussions that this would not be appropriate. That, in the first instance the resource centre should operate out of Moving Food, where it would be located amongst the group it was to service.

Converting the Victorian Trading Co-operative Association to an exclusively 'Food' orientated association was not believed to be in the best interest of all.

The concern that 'Food' co-operatives think that they may not be heard where other more established co-operatives participate was noted.

It was felt that by starting out of the 'Moving Food' co-operative the final structure and functions of the Resource Centre would naturally develop in accordance with the needs/demands of its members.

Relationships between the Resource Centre, Moving Food, the Trading Association and Co-operative Federation should be kept open with maximum use being made of each others resources.

Co-op Federation
21/5/85